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CROPS AND MARKETS

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INDIA'S TOBACCO EXPORTS UP 23 PERCENT

India's exports of unmanufactured tobacco during the first 10 months of 1961, at 97.6 million pounds, were about 23 percent greater than the 79.6 million shipped in January-October 1960. Larger shipments to the United Kingdom, France, and the U.S.S.R. accounted for most of the increase and more than offset reduced exports to Hong Kong, Egypt, Austria, Sudan, Sweden, and Nigeria.

Shipments to the United Kingdom, at 55.3 million pounds, were 16.9 million larger than the January-October 1960 level of 38.4 million. Exports to the U.S.S.R. rose from 4.7 million pounds to 7.9 million during the first 10 months of 1961. Other countries stepping-up their purchases of Indian tobaccos included Aden, Belgium, the Netherlands, Malaya, Morocco, and Algeria.

TOBACCO, UNMANUFACTURED: India, exports by country of destination, January-October 1960 and 1961

Country of destination	January-October	
	1960	1961
	<u>pounds</u>	<u>pounds</u>
United Kingdom	38,402	55,252
U.S.S.R.	4,699	7,940
Aden	7,224	7,912
Belgium	4,369	4,854
French West Africa <u>1</u> /	3,138	3,706
Netherlands	3,025	3,706
France	35	3,513
Malaya <u>2</u> /	2,826	3,306
Algeria	670	1,231
Hong Kong	1,264	639
Egypt	3,497	323
Others	10,468	5,239
Total	79,617	97,621

1/ Includes former French possessions. 2/ Includes the Federation of Malaya and Singapore.

Tobacco Intelligence, Commonwealth Economic Committee.

Shipments of flue-cured totaled 64.5 million pounds, compared with 54.7 million in January-October 1960. Exports to the United Kingdom were 12.3 million pounds larger than the 30.2 million shipped in January-October 1960. Shipments to Western European countries, exclusive of the United Kingdom, totaled 8.4 million pounds, compared with 7.4 million for the same period in 1960. Shipments to France amounted to 3.1 million pounds, compared with only 24,000 pounds in January-October 1960. Exports of Indian flue-cured to the Netherlands, Belgium, Sweden, and Denmark were slightly below the previous period in 1960 while there were no reported shipments to Ireland and Austria.

THAI TOBACCO IMPORTS UP; EXPORTS DOWN

Thailand's imports of unmanufactured tobacco in 1961 totaled 12.7 million pounds--a new record high. The United States supplied almost the entire quantity, consisting chiefly of flue-cured used in the manufacture of quality cigarettes. Imports during 1962, according to Thai tobacco officials, will remain at a high level but may not reach the 1961 record.

The sharp rise in imports during 1961 was to replenish low stocks and provide for gradual increases in leaf usage. Usings of U.S. leaf rose from 9.5 million pounds in 1960 to 9.8 million in 1961. A further rise in usings of U.S. leaf is forecast for 1962.

Thailand's exports of leaf tobacco (all low-grade flue-cured) totaled 2.1 million pounds, compared with 3.7 million in 1960. As usual, West Germany was the principal export market, taking practically all that was shipped abroad in 1961.

AUSTRIAN CIGARETTE OUTPUT DOWN SLIGHTLY

Output of cigarettes by the Austrian Tobacco Monopoly during 1961, at 8.7 billion pieces, declined for the second consecutive year from the 1959 high of 9.2 billion.

Production of cigars totaled 97 million pieces, compared with 104 million in 1960. Output of pipe tobacco and cigarette tobacco for roll-your-own cigarettes was slightly greater than in 1960, while the production of chewing tobacco and snuff continued their downward trends.

GREECE TO EXPAND TOBACCO ACREAGE

The Greek Government Tobacco Committee recently decided to permit increased plantings of tobacco this year. Holders of tobacco-growing licenses will be allowed to grow 1 acre more than last season. Farmers in the most suitable semi-mountainous-growing areas, who have not previously been entitled to grow tobacco, may plant up to a maximum of 5 acres this year. These measures are expected to result in a 1962 planted area of from 310,000 to 320,000 acres, compared with 252,000 in 1961.

U.K. CIGARETTE IMPORTS CONTINUE UPWARD

The United Kingdom's imports of cigarettes continued upward during 1961 and set a new record. Total imports amounted to 839,500 pounds, compared with 790,600 pounds in 1960 and the 1955-59 annual average of 336,400 pounds.

Imports from the United States, the major supplier, amounted to 415,800 pounds and represented 49.5 percent of total imports. Combined imports from Belgium, France, Italy, West Germany, and the Netherlands totaled 195,200 pounds in 1961, compared with 193,900 pounds in 1960. Increased takings from France, West Germany, and Italy more than offset reduced imports from Belgium and the Netherlands.

U.K. AGAIN RESTRICTS BUTTER IMPORTS

The British Government will restrict butter imports for the next 12 months in view of the large supplies arriving in the United Kingdom.

The announcement was made March 20 by the President of the Board of Trade. The restriction was effective April 1 and will hold butter imports to 874 million pounds. This decree follows an import program covering October 1, 1961-March 31, 1962, in which the main suppliers voluntarily agreed to limit shipments in that 6-month period to 475 million pounds.

Under the new restrictive order, quotas with the principal suppliers are: New Zealand 349 million pounds; Denmark 205 million pounds; Australia 139 million pounds; the Netherlands 31 million pounds; and Ireland 27 million pounds.

During 1961, imports reached 948 million pounds, compared with 907 million pounds in 1960. Prices fell to a very low level, particularly in September, when butter was selling for the equivalent of 35 cents per pound retail.

LEBANON FIRMS REQUEST CHEESE BIDS

A U.S. dairy industry representative conducting a market survey in the Near and Far East, reports that two firms are interested in purchasing U.S. Cheese. N.E. Kassatly and Fils; Place de Canons; Beirut, Lebanon is interested in U.S. Cheddar cheese. If the f.a.s. East Coast ports price is approximately 25 cents per pound, the imported cheese can be competitively priced with similar types on the local market. The cheese must be labeled with the date of packing and "KEEPING QUALITY GUARANTEED TO (date)," and the weight. The company will be willing to pay for samples of American Cheddar and invites U.S. exporters to furnish explanations of types of cheese available and price quotes.

REBEIZ TRADERS: P. O. Box 1713; Beirut, Lebanon, is interested in purchasing one ton of processed cheese in 2 or 4 pound (or 2 kilogram) loaves at a price of U.S. \$525 c.i.f. Beirut. (The cost of ocean freight East Coast U.S. to Beirut is approximately \$40 per metric ton.) Before buying the firm would like a sample block sent air freight collect. Any U.S. exporters interested should send quotations directly to the firm.

SWEDEN IMPORTS MORE DAIRY PRODUCTS; SHIPS LESS

Sweden's 1961 imports of all dairy products except dried milk increased over 1960. Imports of butter, only 19,000 pounds in 1960, rose to more than 2 million pounds, and came largely from Denmark and Finland. Cheese imports at 18 million pounds were up 11 percent and were the highest on record. The chief suppliers were Denmark 9 million pounds; the Netherlands 6 million pounds; and Finland 2 million pounds.

Imports of canned milk--357,000 pounds compared with 282,000 pounds a year ago--came almost entirely from the traditional suppliers, Denmark and the Netherlands. Dried milk imports dropped from 759,000 pounds to 504,000 pounds, more than half of which was supplied by Belgium.

Sweden's exports of butter in 1961 dropped 28 percent to 19 million pounds. Shipments to the United Kingdom at 5 million pounds were only about half of those of a year ago. Other markets included West Germany, Italy, and Algeria. Cheese exports increased 5 percent to more than 7 million pounds. Principal outlets were Italy, West Germany, East Germany, and the United Kingdom. Exports of dried milk declined to 4 million pounds from 6 million pounds, and went mostly to West Germany, Switzerland, Algeria, Morocco, and other countries in Africa.

VAST SOUTH AFRICAN WATER PROJECT TO START SOON

The Republic of South Africa has announced that it will begin immediately the first phase of the long-planned Orange River power, irrigation, water supply, and flood control project. The Orange, major river in South Africa, is subject to floods and great seasonal variations in flow. Little of the water is presently used. This project, as planned, is to be larger eventually than the Grand Coulee and Hoover Dams in the United States.

The first phase is estimated to cost \$100 million, but the whole project to be developed over a number of years, is expected to cost over \$600 million. The project eventually will provide a power network from the Atlantic to the Indian Oceans. It is expected to add about 750,000 new irrigated acres to South Africa's approximately 1.4 million irrigated acreage. Also it will provide some irrigated acreage for forage and other crops in vast western and sheep and cattle districts.

This project will include a large area set aside for settlement for Colored farmers. The first phase of the project will consist of 1) two huge dams, 2) a 50-mile water diversion tunnel for irrigation and hydro-electric power on the Fish and Sunday Rivers in the existing important fruit and other crop areas of the eastern Cape Province, 3) a water pipeline to Bloemfontein, and 4) several large new irrigation programs.

LARGE GREEK TABLE OLIVE PACK FORECAST

Greece's 1961 production of table olives is now estimated at 98,500 short tons by the Greek Ministry of Agriculture. However, the Greek trade reportedly feels this figure is too high as they anticipate that about 22,000 tons of the lower quality table olives will be pressed for oil. In either case, the 1961 table olive pack will be considerably above the 1960 and 1959 packs of 24,000 and 54,000 tons respectively.

Production of green olives--included in the total pack estimate--is expected to reach about 3,900 tons of which about 1,700 tons were "cracked olives" packed in brine for domestic use.

TABLES OLIVES: Greece, supply and distribution,
marketing years 1959-61

Item	Year beginning November 1		
	1959	1960	1961
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
<u>Supply</u>			
Beginning stocks	7,000	11,000	----
Production	54,000	24,000	98,500
Imports	---	---	---
Total	61,000	35,000	98,500
<u>Distribution</u>			
Exports	21,000	12,000	1/23,000
Domestic disappearance	29,000	23,000	1/2/55,500
Ending stocks	11,000	---	1/20,000
Total	61,000	35,000	98,500

1/ Forecast. 2/ Includes 22,000 tons of low quality table olives anticipated to be pressed for oil.

Greek table olive exports during the 1960-61 marketing year amounted to 12,000 short tons compared with 21,000 tons in 1959-60. Exports during 1961-62 are expected to be about 23,000 tons, of which 2,000 tons will be green olives.

In early March, Greek table olive f.o.b. price quotations per short ton for olives packed in 50 kilogram wooden barrels were reported as follows:

Size	Green Olives	Black Olives
	U.S. dollars	U.S. dollars
140-150	372	363
190-200	295	318
240-260	272	295-299

1962 AUSTRALIAN CANNED APRICOT PACK INCREASED

The Australian canned apricot pack is now estimated at 918,424 cases (24/2½) by the Australian Canned Fruits Board. This is substantially higher than the 650,00 cases reported earlier and is almost three times larger than the small 1961 pack of 334,000 cases.

The quality of the pack is reportedly the highest in some years.

SPAIN'S 1961 TABLE OLIVE PACK SMALL

Spain's 1961 pack of export-type table olives is reported to be quite small and of low quality.

Total production of the export-type table olive is estimated at 48,300 short tons for 1961-62 compared with 62,000 tons in 1960-61. However, only 58 percent (28,200 tons), of the 1961-62 pack is considered suitable for export in contrast to 90 percent (55,600 tons), for the previous pack.

TABLE OLIVES: Spain, supply and distribution,
1960-61 and 1961-62

Item	1960-61		1961-62	
	Actual production	Exportable amounts	Actual production	Exportable amounts
	<u>Short tons</u>			
<u>Supply</u>				
Beginning stocks, Dec.1:		8,300		6,800
Production:				
Manzanillas	30,000	25,300	17,500	9,000
Gordal (Queens)	20,000	19,300	14,300	7,200
Other types	12,000	11,000	16,500	12,000
Total production ..	62,000	55,600	48,300	28,200
Total supply		63,900		35,000
<u>Distribution</u>				
Exports (Dec.1-Nov.30) ..				
Manzanillas		25,300		
Gordal (Queens)		20,300		
Other types		11,500		
Total export		57,100		35,000
Domestic consumption ..		---		---
Ending stocks		6,800		---
Total distribution		63,900		35,000

Spain exported slightly more than 57,000 short tons of table olives during each of the 2 previous seasons. About 35,000 tons of exportable quality table olives will be available for export in 1961-62. Estimates of the Spanish table olive pack, though, are subject to considerable qualification. In the past 2 seasons exports exceeded expectations and production estimates had to be revised upward.

In response to low supplies of table olives suitable for export, prices have shown a considerable rise during the past few months. Spanish table olive prices for selected periods of the present and previous marketing period compare as follows:

Date	Manzanillas	Queens	Others
--- U.S. Dollars per short ton ---			
1960-61 season			
December	476	367	372
February	494	408	386
November	522	467	449
1961-62 season			
December	603	562	513
January	581	508	490
February 1/	635	590	445

1/ First 15 days.

MEXICAN WINTER VEGETABLE SHIPMENTS

The following winter vegetable shipments from the West Coast of Mexico crossed the border at Nogales, Arizona during the period March 1 to March 15, 1962 (in thousands of pounds with previous year's shipment in parentheses): sweet corn 298 (0); cucumbers 1,487 (688); eggplant 278 (294); peas 382 (998); peppers 1,848 (799); squash 113 (38); snap beans 326 (811); tomatoes 31,427 (22,927); watermelons 141 (414); and fresh strawberries 5 (1).

AUSTRALIA SHIPS BREEDING CATTLE TO JAPAN

Australia exported 100 head of commercial Angus heifers and 1 pure-bred Angus bull to Japan in early March.

The shipment was reported to be the largest single export sale of beef cattle for breeding from Australia to any country. The shipment left Australia the first week of March on a Japanese freighter.

ITALY REMOVES IMPORT BAN ON CATTLE AND BEEF

Effective April 1, 1962 Italy permitted the imports of cattle and beef on an import license basis.

Import quotas have been established for the period April 1-July 31. Common Market countries and their overseas territories have been allotted the largest quota of slaughter cattle. The South American countries (Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay) were allotted more than half of the quota of frozen beef and veal. No quota was given to the United States.

Monthly shipment from countries other than the Latin American countries must not exceed one-fourth of the announced quota. The Latin American countries will be required to supply not more than half their quota in each 2 month period.

Quotas for the period August 1-November 30 are expected to be two-third of those for April 1-July 31. Beginning December 1, 1962 the EEC regulations are expected to replace the present system.

ITALY: Cattle and beef import quotas for April 1-July 31

Country	Live cattle	Frozen beef	Chilled beef
	Number	Metric tons	Metric tons
EEC countries and territories..	44,000	1,000	2,500
Table B.countries	29,500	4,400	5,500
Latin America	---	8,000	1,600
Yugoslavia	15,345	---	1,765
Trieste 1/	1,165	---	52
Gorizia 1/	325	---	50
Poland	8,330	---	740
Rumania	3,335	372	---
Hungary	10,000	---	22

1/ Additional quotas for Yugoslavia.

WEST GERMANY EXTENDS IMPORT TENDERS FOR FATBACK AND VARIETY MEATS

On March 23, 1962 West Germany extended through June 29, 1962 the period to apply for import licenses for fatback and variety meats from the United States and Canada.

Individual German firms may apply for licenses to import up to 20 metric tons of fatback, but as licenses are used, further applications may be submitted. Only those firms that imported fatback in 1960 are eligible (Foreign Crops and Markets, March 13, 1961).

On March 23, 1961 West Germany published an import tender for frozen livers and kidneys from the United States and Canada (Foreign Crops and Markets, April 3, 1961). These tenders have also been extended through June 29, 1962. West Germany was the most important market for U.S. variety meats in 1961 taking more than 33 million pounds.

AUSTRALIAN MEAT SHIPMENTS TO THE UNITED STATES

Eight ships left Australia in February and early March with 11,338,880 pounds of beef, 1,915,200 pounds of mutton and 22,400 pounds of lamb for the United States.

Ship	Sailing date	Destination 1/	Arrival date	Cargo	Quantity
					Pounds
Anna Bakke ...	Feb. 16	Seattle	Apr. 4	Beef	20,160
		Los Angeles	" 24	"	170,240
		San Francisco	" 28	"	44,800
		" "	" "	Mutton	17,920
Iberia	Feb. 17	Los Angeles	Mar. 10	Beef	42,560
Silver Ocean..	Feb. 28	Philadelphia	" 28	"	118,720
		"	" "	Mutton	67,200
		New York	" 29	Beef	2,271,360
		" "	" "	Mutton	672,000
		Boston	" 31	Beef	360,640
Stratus.....	Mar. 2	Los Angeles	" 19	"	206,080
		" "	" "	Mutton	31,360
		San Francisco	" 22	Beef	280,000
Chilean	Mar. 2	Seattle	" 19	"	376,320
Reefer		San Francisco	" 23	"	571,200
		" "	" "	Mutton	246,400
		Los Angeles	" 26	Beef	692,160
		" "	" "	Mutton	504,000
Oriana	Mar. 5	San Francisco	" 21	Beef	56,000
		Los Angeles	" 23	"	67,200
Wharanui	Mar. 8	Boston	Apr. 12	"	109,760
		New York	" 16	"	940,800
		" "	" "	Mutton	112,000
		Philadelphia	" 21	Beef	331,520
		"	" "	Mutton	112,000
Nottingham ...	Mar. 9	New York	Apr. 11	Beef	3,953,600
		" "	" "	Mutton	85,120
		" "	" "	Lamb	22,400
		Philadelphia	" 20	Beef	300,160
		"	" "	Mutton	67,200
		Boston	" 22	Beef	425,600

1/ Cities listed indicate location of purchaser and usually the port of arrival and general market area, but the meat may be diverted to other areas for sale.

INDIAN TEA BOARD DELEGATION VISITS NORTH AMERICA

An Indian delegation, headed by the chairman of the Tea Board, departed from Bombay on March 25, 1962, to visit the United States and Canada. The delegation will spend several weeks promoting increased consumption of Indian tea in these two countries. Per capita consumption of tea in the United States and Canada in 1960 was approximately 0.64 pounds and 2.38 pounds, respectively.

Since 1954 Indian exports of tea to the United States and Canada have decreased with the exception of increases in 1956 and 1958. In 1960, India exported 18.9 million pounds of tea to the United States and 15.4 million pounds to Canada, representing 4.4 percent and 3.6 percent of total exports, respectively.

CYCLONE AFFECTS MALAGASY REPUBLIC'S VANILLA CROP

The vanilla growing area of the world's largest producer of this commodity was hit by a severe storm in January. Poor flowering had initially indicated a slightly below average 1962 crop of 350-400 metric tons, but as the result of the January storm, crop estimates have been reduced even further.

The 1961 crop, which is ready for export during 1962, plus stocks left over from the unusually large 1960 outturn of 720 tons is deemed to be sufficient to meet Malagasy's share of world demand for the remainder of this year.

IVORY COAST OPENS SOLUBLE COFFEE PLANT

On March 8, 1962 a soluble coffee factory was opened in Abidjan, Ivory Coast. The processed coffee will be made exclusively from that grown in the Ivory Coast. It will be exported to all neighboring French-speaking countries as well as to Nigeria, Ghana, Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia; and to countries to the East, particularly Iran and Madagascar. The factory has a capacity of 5,000 metric tons, which is expected to produce 1,600 tons of soluble coffee.

MALAYA CLOSES LAST COFFEE PLANTATION

The downward world price trend for coffee and changing consumer tastes have caused Malaya to close its last coffee plantation.

Coffee was the original commodity used for Malayan agriculture expansion before the days of rubber, but has not been an important export crop for many years. The sour liberica which is produced is no longer popular even in Malaya. The country has not been able to compete with other growths due to high labor costs.

THAILAND ISSUES RICE EXPORT PRICE AND PERTINENT REGULATIONS

On March 14 Thailand set export prices for various grades of rice and issued regulations relating to the prices.

The prices are effective March 15, and may be revised from time to time. They are given in the following schedule:

RICE, MILLED: Thailand's fixed export prices, f.o.b.,
effective March 15, 1962

Type and Grade	Price	Type and grade	Price
	Dollars		Dollars
	per		per
	<u>m. ton</u>		<u>100 lb.</u>
White rice:		Loonzain (brown):	
100% 1st grade.....	150.73	100%.....	126.08
2nd grade.....	149.33	5%.....	121.15
3rd grade.....	147.92	15%.....	117.63
5% broken.....	142.28	Broken A-1 Special..	97.20
10% broken.....	139.47	Parboiled:	
15% broken.....	138.06	100%	130.31
20% broken.....	136.65	Longboiled 5%.....	124.67
25% super.....	125.38	Parbailed 5%.....	123.27
25% broken.....	122.56	Longboiled 10%.....	123.27
35% broken.....	119.74	Parboiled 10%.....	121.86
White broken:		Parboiled 25%.....	119.74
A-1 extra super.....	132.42	Broken A-1	92.98
A-1 super.....	111.29	White rice flour.....	100.02
A-1 special.....	109.88	Glutinous rice flour :	
A-1 ordinary.....	108.47	Super	95.80
C-1 super.....	101.43	Ordinary	90.17
C-1 special.....	93.68	Vermicelli:	
C-1 ordinary.....	90.86	Super 1/	167.64
C-3 special.....	87.34	Super 2/	157.78
Glutinous:		Super 3/	132.42
10% long-grain.....	120.45	Ordinary 1/.....	154.96
10% short-grain.....	115.52	Ordinary 2/.....	142.28
Broken A-1 special..	88.75	Ordinary 3/.....	119.74
Broken C-1.....	84.52		

1/ Wrapped in paper and packed in wooden box. 2/ Packed in wooden box, but unwrapped. 3/ Wrapped in paper, but not packed in wooden box.

Official Rice and Rice Products Export Schedule, No. 9/2505.

(Continued)

Exporters are required to sell at f.o.b. Bangkok prices, or at any prices not lower than those included in the schedule, except that (1) C grade white-broken rice, and white and broken glutinous rice may be sold at a lower price, not exceeding 5 percent; (2) Grades not listed in the schedule may be sold at lower prices, no exceeding 3 percent.

If the transactions call for delivery in April or thereafter, the prices of the following grades may be lower than in the schedule, but not exceeding the following percentages:

Type and grade	: : Delivery in : April : Percent	: : Delivery : thereafter : Percent
White rice, 100% whole	1	---
White rice, 5% broken	1	---
White rice 10 and 15% broken	2	1
White broken rice, A-1 super	1.75	0.5
White broken rice, A-1 special	1.75	0.5
Parboiled and longboiled 1/	2	1

1/ Parboiled, 100% whole; longboiled, 5% broken; parboiled, 5% broken; longboiled, 10% broken; parboiled, 10% broken; parboiled, 10% broken; and parboiled, 25% broken.

Upon conclusion of any rice deal, exporters are required to forward to the Foreign Trade Department within 3 days the names of the buyers and all relevant supporting sales evidence.

COMMUNIST CHINA PURCHASES GRAIN

In recent months, the Communist Chinese have been active in world grain markets. Apparently, nearly every bountry which might be a source of grain has been approached. Contracts have been entered into recently with Canada, Australia, Argentina, and France. Initial purchases in the first several months of last year were made for cash. However, since that time the Red Chinese have successfully obtained credit for additional purchases. The terms for shipments from Australia are 10 percent down, 40 percent in six months and the balance within 12 months after shipment. Grain is purchased from Canada on the basis of 25 percent down and the balance in 9 months. In the past credit payments have been paid promptly when due.

Since January 1961 a heavy volume of grain has been exported to the China Mainland. The total quantity shipped from all sources during 1961 was more than $5\frac{1}{2}$ million tons. Purchases to this time for shipment during 1962 exceed $3\frac{1}{2}$ million tons.

Last year's imports, although significant in terms of world trade, were little more than 3 percent of the estimated food supplies available in China. Following crop reversals in 1959 and 1960, farm production may have improved slightly during 1961. However, the food supply is still inadequate. There is little doubt that substantial imports of food grains will continue to be needed during 1962 and 1963.

The grain purchases made by Communist China will reduce exportable grain supplies, outside the United States, to the lowest levels in recent years. Canada, in the current 1961-62 marketing year has the smallest supply of wheat since 1952. Canada had a very short wheat crop in 1961 and prospects for the current crop are uncertain. In Australia the situation is somewhat different. Large crops were harvested in both 1961 and 1962. In the absence of purchases by China, considerable surpluses would probably have accumulated from the 1961 crop.

In 1962, in addition to providing a means to dispose of a portion of the large crop, such sales are important as an outlet for substantial quantities of off-grade wheat from the recent harvest.

GRAIN IMPORTS AND PURCHASES: Communist China, 1961 and 1962
1961 Imports

Country of origin	Wheat	Flour ^{2/}	Corn	Barley	Oats	Rice	Total
	----- 1,000 metric tons -----						
Argentina.....	---	--	45	--	--	--	45
Australia.....	2,113	62	--	366	60	--	2,601
Burma.....	--	--	--	--	--	317	317
Canada.....	1,471	--	--	660	--	--	2,131
France.....	--	34	--	260	--	--	294
Germany, West.....	--	254	--	--	--	--	254
Total.....	3,584	350	45	1,286	60	317	5,642
	----- 1962 Purchases -----						
	----- 1,000 metric tons -----						
Argentina.....	100	---	50	---	--	--	150
Australia.....	700	--	--	5	20	--	725
Burma.....	--	--	--	--	--	200	200
Canada.....	1,950	--	--	200	--	--	2,150
France.....	200	--	--	200	--	--	400
Germany, West.....	--	69	--	--	--	--	69
Total.....	2,950	69	50	405	20	200	3,694

^{1/} Imports based on recorded exports to Communist China. ^{2/} Wheat equivalent of flour exports.

PHILIPPINE RICE CROP
REVISED UPWARD

The 1961-62 rice crop of the Philippine Republic has been revised upward to a record 3,992,000 metric tons of rough rice.

The previous estimate was 3,936,000 tons (Foreign Crops and Markets, January 29, 1962). In 1960-61, a crop of 3,705,000 tons was harvested, and during the 5 years 1955-56/59-60, production averaged 3,447,000 tons per year.

Increased production in 1961-62 is attributed to several factors: a gain in rice acreage; ample water; use of more fertilizer; and improved cultivation practices.

The revised estimate of the 1961-62 rice acreage is 8,084,000 acres. This is 2 percent above 7,902,000 in 1960-61, and 13 percent larger than the average area in rice from 1955-56 through 1959-60.

Supplies from the recently harvested bumper rice crop should be adequate for consumption in 1962. The Philippine Republic apparently will not need to import rice this year.

U.S. WHEAT AND FLOUR EXPORTS
CONTINUE UPWARD TREND

U.S. wheat and flour exports during July 1961 through January 1962 totaled 413 million bushels--63 million bushels more than during the same period a year earlier.

Wheat exports at 295 million bushels were 21 percent larger than during July-January 1960-61. Countries taking significantly more U.S. wheat during the first 7 months of 1961-62 are shown in million bushels with comparable data for the previous year in parenthesis: Brazil 35.1 (16.0); West Germany 12.0 (4.4); the Netherlands 14.3 (3.6); Yugoslavia 13.4 (0); Turkey 23.0 (2.9); Algeria 6.9 (.8); Morocco 7.0 (.6); and Tunisia 10.9 (2.7). In contrast, there were sharp reductions in shipments to Poland and India.

U.S. exports of flour during July 1961 through January 1962 totaled 56 million bushels, approximately 1 million larger than the previous season. There were only slight variations to most destinations. Shipments to Egypt--the largest market--during July-January 1961-62 were 15 million bushels, nearly a million larger than during the first 7 months of 1960-61.

Total wheat and flour exports during July-February 1961-62 are preliminarily estimated at 467 million bushels, compared with 417 million during the first 8 months of 1960-61.

WHEAT AND FLOUR: U. S. exports by country of destination, July-January 1960-61
and July-January 1961-62

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Country of destination	July-January 1960-61			July-January 1961-62		
	Wheat	Flour 1/	Total	Wheat	Flour 1/	Total
	bushels	bushels	bushels	bushels	bushels	bushels
Western Hemisphere:						
Canada	5,731	34	5,765	9,220	98	9,318
Central America	1,527	1,745	3,272	2,068	1,686	3,754
Cuba	547	1,085	1,632	--	--	--
Bolivia	--	1,581	1,581	--	1,860	1,860
Brazil	16,038	94	16,132	35,125	140	35,265
Chile	1,200	694	1,894	6,933	946	7,879
Colombia	1,625	655	2,280	2,140	540	2,680
Paraguay	--	48	48	2,359	60	2,419
Peru	2,012	280	2,292	5,546	357	5,903
Venezuela	4,785	79	4,864	7,316	46	7,362
Others	1,373	2,458	3,831	2,137	2,854	4,991
Total	34,838	8,753	43,591	72,844	8,587	81,431
Europe:						
Belgium-Luxembourg	2,493	3	2,496	4,218	2	4,220
France	397	1	398	3,063	--	3,063
Germany, West	4,423	233	4,656	11,999	156	12,155
Greece	1,191	1,153	2,344	1,408	1,124	2,532
Italy	16,101	3,591	19,692	13,206	3,564	16,770
Netherlands	3,586	1,806	5,392	14,296	1,780	16,076
Norway	536	258	794	2,331	7	2,338
Poland	29,738	414	30,152	4,030	491	4,521
Portugal	2,022	559	2,581	4,211	355	4,566
Spain	9,515	228	9,743	13,905	324	14,229
Switzerland	1,356	--	1,356	4,385	2/	4,385
United Kingdom	9,792	786	10,578	7,369	1,742	9,111
Yugoslavia	--	1,374	1,374	13,386	1,515	14,901
Others	1,375	432	1,807	1,487	712	2,199
Total	82,525	10,838	93,363	99,294	11,772	111,066
Asia:						
Ceylon	--	1,855	1,855	--	1,947	1,947
India	86,570	23	86,593	52,859	435	53,294
Iran	3,088	144	3,232	301	135	436
Israel	4,179	97	4,276	5,273	81	5,354
Japan	20,048	1,680	21,728	20,826	1,525	22,351
Jordan	1,854	1,152	3,006	8	2,113	2,121
Korea	5,003	633	5,636	4,979	562	5,541
Pakistan	18,539	561	19,100	21,371	346	21,717
Philippines	3,214	862	4,076	5,883	715	6,598
Saudi Arabia	20	1,311	1,331	47	1,178	1,225
Syria	3,883	3,723	7,606	1,909	989	2,898
Taiwan (Formosa)	6,577	346	6,923	6,930	649	7,579
Turkey	2,908	67	2,975	23,023	193	23,216
Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia	575	1,975	2,550	63	1,675	1,738
Others	2,500	3,150	5,650	1,211	3,342	4,553
Total	158,958	17,579	176,537	144,683	15,885	160,568
Africa:						
Algeria	791	287	1,078	6,916	255	7,171
Congo, Republic of	--	235	235	--	1,096	1,096
Egypt	11,529	14,493	26,022	13,213	15,260	28,473
Morocco	623	583	1,206	7,027	748	7,775
Nigeria	--	1,137	1,137	--	1,159	1,159
Tunisia	2,712	43	2,755	10,909	104	11,013
Others	2,657	1,054	3,711	1,705	1,116	2,821
Total	18,312	17,832	36,144	39,770	19,738	59,508
Oceania	--	23	23	--	23	23
World total 2/	294,633	55,025	349,658	356,591	56,005	412,596

1/ Wholly of U.S. wheat (grain equivalent). 2/ Less than 500 bushels. 3/ Includes shipments for relief or charity.

PHILIPPINES ELIMINATES WHEAT AND FLOUR IMPORT DEPOSITS

The Philippine Government has relieved Philippine importers of the requirement of "time deposits" and "reserve deposits" totaling 50 percent of the c.i.f. value for imports of wheat, spelt, meslin, semolina, and three types of wheat flour. Each deposit was 25 percent.

The three types of flour are durum wheat flour; flour of wheat, spelt and meslin vitamin enriched only (including cake flour in containers of 50 pounds or more, and all-purpose flour irrespective of packing); and wheat flour, unenriched, used as glue extender.

These two deposits were made by the importers in banks which were agents of the Central Bank and where they opened letters of credit in connection with importation of these commodities. The agent banks held the deposits for at least 120 days before returning them to the traders.

The elimination of these deposits is expected to reduce the market prices and increase imports of these commodities into the Philippines. One reason for this expectation is that the importers will save interest payments on borrowings of money needed to make the deposits. Another is that this saving in interest will increase Philippine imports of these commodities which will lower their market prices still more.

BELGIUM INCREASES HOPS IMPORT QUOTA

Owing to recent inability of a number of Belgian brewers to obtain needed supplies of hops, the Ministry of Agriculture has increased Belgium's 1961-62 hops import quota by 5,000 centners (5,500 pounds). This addition to the quota will, however, be valid only during the month of April.

Belgian farmers have completely sold their 1961 hops production. The increase of 5,000 centners is 20 percent of the original 1961-62 import quota of about 25,000 centners (27,500 pounds), and each importer will share in the increase to the extent of 20 percent of his share of the original quota.

FROZEN STRAWBERRIES ARRIVE FROM MEXICO

A preliminary report on frozen strawberry imports from Mexico for the week ending March 31 shows 2.9 million pounds to the United States and .3 million pounds to Canada.

U.S. EXPORTS OF COTTON
LOWER THROUGH DECEMBER

U.S. exports of cotton, all types, amounted to 2,291,000 bales of 500 pounds gross (2,207,000 running bales) in the first 5 months (August-December) of the current season--compared with 2,540,000 bales in the same 1960-61 period.

Running bale exports reached 2,589,000 during the August-January period of this season, against 3,422,000 bales in the same 6 months of 1960-61. Registrations for export under the current payment-in-kind program totaled 3,896,000 running bales as of March 30, compared with 6,000,000 on approximately the same date last season.

MEXICO REDUCES 1962
COTTON ACREAGE

With planting nearing completion in some regions and well under way in most others, the total area planted to cotton in Mexico in 1962 is currently estimated in some quarters at 5 to 10 percent below the 1961 acreage of 2,020,000 acres.

Decreased acreage this year in the Mexicali region reportedly may result from increased salinity of water normally used for irrigation, while indicated declines in the Delicias and Matamoros regions may reflect disappointing yields in 1961. Cotton plantings may increase in the newer regions of Altamira and Tapachula, while little change from 1961 appears likely in other areas.

Mexico exported 897,000 bales of cotton (500 pounds gross) in the first half (August-January) of the current season. This figure is 22 percent below the 1,149,000 bales shipped in the same months last season, and is the smallest outflow since August-January 1954-55 when 885,000 bales were shipped.

Quantities exported directly to major destinations during the first half of 1961-62, with comparable 1960-61 figures in parentheses, were: Japan 364,000 bales (389,000); Spain 75,000 (7,000); Panama 38,000 (34,000); United States 29,000 (29,000); West Germany 22,000 (35,000); France 13,000 (27,000); United Kingdom 9,000 (7,000); Italy 8,000 (6,000); and Rumania 7,000 (0).

In addition to direct shipments, sizable quantities of Mexican cotton moved through U.S. ports for transshipment to foreign destinations. Transshipments during August-November of the current season totaled 203,000 bales, compared with 351,000 in the same 1960-61 period (Foreign Crops and Markets, March 19, 1962).

Total exports this season probably will be about 100,000 to 150,000 bales below the 1960-61 volume of 1,610,000 bales. The reduction reflects smaller export availabilities, since most of the exportable supply is reported to have been sold.

Cotton consumption in Mexico this season is not expected to differ much from last season's offtake of 515,000 bales. Although consumer purchases of cotton goods apparently have been maintained, raw cotton consumption has been affected recently by strikes at textile mills.

With cotton production this season about equal to disappearance, stocks on hand next August 1 are expected to remain close to the relatively low level of 225,000 bales held a year earlier.

Forward export sales of cotton from the 1962 crop have been under way for several weeks, at prices near those prevailing for prompt shipment. On March 22, Mexican Strict Middling 1-1/16 inches cotton for August-September delivery was quoted at 30.14 U.S. cents per pound, c.i.f. Liverpool, while Middling 1-1/16 inches was quoted at 29.55 cents. Comparable quotations on about the same date a year ago were 30.60 and 29.55 cents, respectively.

PORTUGAL'S OLIVE OIL PRODUCTION ESTIMATE RAISED

Portugal's production of olive oil for the 1961-62 marketing year is officially estimated as 110,065 short tons. This is 10 percent more than forecast earlier in the year and 6 percent above the 103,837 tons produced in 1960-61.

For several years the trend in Portugal's olive oil production has been upward. The current estimate compares with an annual average of 93,375 tons for the 5-year period 1956-57/1960-61. The average for 1951-52/1955-56 was 87,648 tons and for 1946-47/1950-51 it was 67,902 tons.

As Portugal's production has increased, its imports of edible olive oil have been reduced. Where 5,000 tons were imported in 1959, only 600 tons were imported in 1960 and none in 1961. Meanwhile, exports of edible olive oil have approximated 5,000 tons during the last 2 years and are expected to exceed this level during 1962.

NIGERIAN PEANUT SUPPLIES UP SHARPLY; EXPORTS INCREASE

Nigerian peanut exports in marketing year 1961-62 are expected to reach 520,000 long tons (shelled basis) a gain of 6 percent from 1960-61. During this same period peanut supplies are estimated to have grown by 10 percent.

Nigerian commercial peanut production in 1962, now estimated at 675,000 tons, is 9 percent above the previous year. This increase together with stocks one-third above beginning stocks of 1960-61 has resulted in supply increases beyond utilization and exports.

Crushers are expected to expand their use by one-fourth; exports also are expected to increase. Notwithstanding this, stocks also are expected to rise.

PEANUTS: Nigeria, supply and distribution of commercial crops, marketing years 1959-60 to 1961-62 1/

Item	: 1959-60	: 1960-61	: 1961-62 <u>2/</u>
	: 1,000	: 1,000	: 1,000
	: <u>Long tons</u>	: <u>Long tons</u>	: <u>Long tons</u>
Supply:			
Beginning stocks November 1 <u>3/</u> ...	29.0	27.1	36.1
Commercial production	445.4	619.1	675.0
Commercial supply	474.4	646.2	711.1
Distribution:			
Crushers	107.9	120.0	150.0
Exports	339.4	490.1	520.0
Ending stocks October 31 <u>3/</u>	27.1	36.1	41.1
Commercial distribution	474.4	646.2	711.1

1/ Shelled basis

2/ Unofficial estimate.

3/ Does not include that en route port and in port warehouses.

Nigeria Monthly Trade Summaries and Reports of the Northern Region Licensed Buying Agents committee.

Exports of peanuts from Nigeria during January-September 1961 were up by one-half from the comparable 1960 period, but significantly below the 1959 shipments. The major markets for Nigerian peanuts with the percentages of total exports going there in 1961, were: United Kingdom 24 percent; France 23 percent; Italy 16 percent; West Germany 10 percent; and the Netherlands 10 percent. France, Italy, and West Germany are increasing in relative importance as markets for Nigerian peanuts.

Peanut oil exports during January-September 1961 declined by about 4 percent from the same period in 1960. This decline is accounted for by a drop in shipments to the United Kingdom which has been the major market for Nigerian peanut oil. However, complete data for the year, when available, may indicate some increase from 1960.

Nigerian exports of peanut cake during January-September 1961 were 51,278 tons, about two-fifths above the comparable period in 1960. Virtually all of the shipments of this commodity have been to the United Kingdom.

PEANUTS AND PEANUT OIL: Nigeria, exports by
country of destination, calendar years 1959,
1960, and January-September 1960 and 1961

Country of destination	Peanuts <u>1/</u>				Peanut oil			
			January-September				January-September	
	1959	1960	1960	1961	1959	1960	1960	1961
	<u>1,000 Long tons</u>							
United Kingdom.....	190.4	94.3	82.2	92.7	40.7	45.4	32.5	23.2
France.....	61.2	71.6	37.4	90.5	---	---	---	---
Belgium-Luxembourg..	34.2	31.4	27.9	24.6	---	---	---	---
Netherlands.....	73.4	37.5	29.5	39.5	5.5	0.6	0.6	5.3
Germany, West.....				40.5				2.3
Portugal.....	---	18.0	9.4	1.5	---	---	---	---
Norway.....	6.5	6.5	6.0	2.0	---	---	---	---
Italy and Trieste...	77.5	38.8	34.0	62.5	---	---	---	---
Others.....	54.0	33.8	29.6	33.0	1.6	0.6	0.2	1.3
Total.....	497.2	331.9	256.0	386.8	47.8	46.6	33.3	32.1

1/ Shelled basis.

Nigeria Monthly Trade Summaries.

Producer prices paid by the Northern Nigerian Marketing Board for peanuts in the 1961-62 season were set at ₦ 43.11.6 per ton (6.50 U.S. cents per pound) delivered port of shipment. This reflects a 5 percent decrease from the price of ₦ 46.4.6 (5.78 U.S. cents per pound) paid in 1960-61. This reduction was necessary in order to bring Nigerian producer prices more in line with anticipated world prices, since guaranteed peanut prices were previously in excess of world prices.

PEANUTS: Nigeria, producer prices for shelled peanuts,
1959-60 to 1961-62 1/

Year	: Pounds sterling : : per : : long ton :	U.S. cents per pound
1959-60	45-4-6	5.65
1960-61	46-4-6	5.78
1961-62	43-11-6	5.50

1/ Naked, ex-scale, delivered port of shipment, excluding shore handling charges.

Northern Nigeria Marketing Board.

REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO'S PEANUT
DECLINE WILL CONTINUE

Production of peanuts in the Republic of the Congo has trended downward since 1959 and is expected to continue to do so during the next several years.

REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO: Peanut acreage and production,
annual 1959-61 and forecast 1962

	: 1959	: 1960 <u>1/</u>	: 1961 <u>1/</u>	: Forecast
	: 1959	: 1960 <u>1/</u>	: 1961 <u>1/</u>	: 1962
	: <u>Acres</u>	: <u>Acres</u>	: <u>Acres</u>	: <u>Acres</u>
Acreage	683,593	691,880	568,330	494,200
	: <u>Short tons</u>	: <u>Short tons</u>	: <u>Short tons</u>	: <u>Short tons</u>
Production				
Peanuts (unshelled) ..	197,986	192,900	143,300	132,275

1/ Unofficial estimates.

Heavy rainfall and floods coupled with deteriorating political conditions since Independence (June 30, 1960) have disrupted the internal marketing and trade of the peanut crops and contributed to reduced acreage and production.

Peanut production which is completely in the hands of small producers, has declined sharply and is provisionally forecast at 132,275 short tons in 1962. Reportedly, over 2.5 million people have been forced to relocate to less productive areas. Most of those people were producers of peanuts, corn, and other crops.

Even if political conditions normalize soon, it is anticipated that several years will elapse before the production of peanuts can achieve the pre-independence level.

SUEZ CANAL OILSEED SHIPMENTS
CONTINUE AT REDUCED VOLUME

The volume of oilseed shipments through the Suez Canal in February 1962 was substantially below that of January 1962 (Foreign Crops and Markets, April 2, 1962) and one-eighth less than the quantities shipped in February 1961.

Total shipments of all oilseeds through February 1962 of the U.S. marketing year beginning October 1, 1962 were almost 10 percent smaller in volume than shipments during the comparable period of the previous marketing year.

OILSEEDS: Suez Canal, northbound shipments by kind, February 1961
and 1962 and October-February 1960-61 and 1961-62

Item	February		October-February	
	1961	1962	1960-61	1961-62
	Metric tons	Metric tons	Metric tons	Metric tons
Soybeans <u>1/</u>	38,000	14,914	164,000	119,034
Copra.....	56,000	37,197	348,000	274,946
Peanuts.....	9,000	18,739	54,000	85,466
Cottonseed.....	7,000	8,170	28,000	43,636
Flaxseed <u>2/</u>	1,000	3,677	5,000	17,585
Castor beans.....)		2,962)	15,313
Palm nuts and kernels.....)	15,000	1,153) 95,000	16,920
Others.....)		23,547)	
Total.....	126,000	110,359	694,000	629,747

1/ 1 metric ton of soybeans equals 36.743333 bushels.

2/ 1 metric ton of flaxseed equals 39.367857 bushels.

Suez Canal Authority, Monthly Bulletin (Cairo, Egypt)

SOYBEANS: Suez Canal, Northbound shipments, January, February
March, and quarterly totals, 1957-61

Month and Quarter	Year beginning October 1				
	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961
	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels
January.....	514	2,572	4,483	3,711	2,907
February.....	1,764	4,446	4,850	1,396	548
March.....	3,050	3,417	4,666	955	---
October-December.....	1,029	4,189	8,598	919	919
January-March.....	5,328	10,435	13,999	6,062	---
April-June.....	3,674	9,700	8,635	1,213	---
July-September.....	7,275	5,879	2,756	2,776	---
October-September.....	17,306	30,203	33,988	10,970	

Total computed from unrounded numbers.

Suez Canal Authority, Monthly Bulletin (Cairo, Egypt).

The movement of soybeans (presumed to be Chinese) through the Canal in February was well below the January tonnage and the smallest February shipment since 1950.

Total shipments of soybeans from October through February of the current marketing year are running below the volume in the comparable period of the marketing years beginning October 1, 1958, 1959, and 1960.

GREEK OLIVE OIL PRODUCTION AT RECORD LEVEL

Greece's 1961-62 edible olive oil production is officially estimated at about 250,000 short tons--an alltime record and nearly three times the 1960-61 production level. Last year's output, presently estimated at 87,500 tons, was the smallest since 1952-53. The previous high was in 1948-49 when 245,000 tons were produced.

Trade estimates are somewhat lower than the official figure, around 220,000 tons, but these do not take into account production in minor producing areas and production for home consumption. However, the official estimate is preliminary and subject to revision.

The record yields of this year's crop are attributed to very favorable weather conditions that generally prevailed during blooming, setting, developing, and maturing of the olives and to limited damage from insects and disease during the year, as well as to an "on-year" cyclic influence. New trees coming into production contributed only a small proportion of the total production gain.

Exports of olive oil have not yet been significant during the 1961-62 marketing year. Most of the increased production will go to displace imports and to build stocks. An export goal of 11,000 tons has been set, but while exports during the remainder of the year may be substantial, the level will be dependent on the relationship between domestic and international prices--which presently does not favor exports. Last year Greece imported nearly 20,000 tons of olive oil and about 25,000 tons of edible seed oils. This year no olive oil imports are anticipated and seed oil imports will be minor.

ARGENTINA'S SUNFLOWER AND PEANUT ACREAGE ESTIMATES REVISED UPWARD

Argentina's 1962 sunflower and peanut acreages are now believed to be higher than initial estimates (Foreign Crops and Markets, March 5, 1962).

According to the second official estimate, Argentine sunflower seed plantings are 3,065,000 acres, 3 percent above the first official estimate and about 11 percent above the 1960-61 plantings.

(Continued)

Peanut plantings, according to the second estimate, total 617,750 acres, an increase of 8 percent from the initial estimate and more than one-fifth from planted acreage in 1960-61. The current acreage figure is second only to the 701,000 acres planted in 1958-59.

FRANCE TO INCREASE OILSEED ACREAGE IN 1962

France, a major world oilseed importer, will increase its planted area of oilseeds in 1962 by about 18 percent from 1961.

This official estimate made by the Ministry of Agriculture, if realized, may result in continued expansion of French oilseed production, particularly of rapeseed, flaxseed, and sunflower seed. Oilseed production in 1961 at 171,800 short tons was one-fourth above the 1960 level. This increase largely reflected larger plantings of the above mentioned crops.

OILSEEDS: France, planted area, yield, and production
1960 and 1961, and estimates of planted area for 1962

Crop	1960			1961			Estimated 1962 area
	Area	Yield	Production	Area	Yield	Production	
	: 1,000 : acres	: Pounds : per acre	: 1,000 : short tons	: 1,000 : acres	: Pounds : per acre	: 1,000 : short tons	: 1,000 : acres
Rapeseed	127.0	1,335	84.7	160.9	1,391	111.8	193.2
Navette	14.8	959	7.1	14.8	865	6.4	14.8
Poppy	1.2	1,000	0.6	1.2	1,000	0.6	1.5
Sunflower	9.1	1,516	6.9	13.1	1,527	10.0	24.7
Flaxseed ^{1/}	41.0	1,278	26.2	51.9	1,171	30.4	54.4
Other.....	31.1	669	10.4	35.1	718	12.6	37.1
Total.....	224.2		135.9	277.0		171.8	325.7

^{1/} Flax grown for oil only; does not include that grown for fiber.

French Ministry of Agriculture Bulletin.

In 1961 France continued to provide for most of her domestic needs of oilseeds through imports. Imports of peanuts, which have accounted for about one-half of the total oilseed imports in recent years, were one-eighth larger than in 1960. Major sources of these imports were Senegal, other former French West African countries, and Nigeria.

Soybean imports in 1961 were down about three-fifths from 1960. All soybeans imported by France in 1961 were from the United States.

Other oilseed imports declined significantly as follows: Castor beans--about 60 percent; rapeseed--14 percent; and palm kernel--13 percent.

French oilseed exports in 1961 were about $2\frac{1}{2}$ times larger than in 1960. Increased rapeseed shipments represented the major source of this gain.

OILSEEDS: France, exports and imports,
annual 1959-1961

Commodity	Exports			Imports		
	1959	1960	1961	1959	1960	1961
	<u>1,000 Short tons</u>					
Peanuts <u>1</u> /.....	0.9	0.6	1.1	461.7	483.3	544.2
Soybeans	---	---	---	88.3	215.6	89.9
Rapeseed	39.5	12.1	34.7	4.5	43.3	37.3
Copra	---	---	---	83.9	95.0	98.4
Palm kernels ...	---	---	---	90.5	104.8	91.0
Flaxseed	<u>2</u> /	0.1	0.3	120.2	88.3	86.8
Castor beans ...	0.9	---	---	17.5	27.6	11.3
Hemp seed	---	---	---	1.5	3.1	2.4
Others	0.6	1.1	---	4.9	5.0	---
---- Total	41.9	13.9	3/36.1	873.0	1,066.0	3/961.3

1/ Shelled basis. 2/ Less than 50 tons. 3/ Incomplete.

Customs Bureau, French Ministry of Finance.

French imports of crude vegetable oils in 1961 gained about 15 percent from 1960. Overall imports of crude vegetable oil amounted to 253,247 tons in 1961 compared with 220,892 tons in the previous year. Exports totaling 44,214 tons were two-fifths larger than in 1960.

France is importing large quantities of oilcake in addition to raw oilbearing materials. The demand for cake is expected to increase further as the government places new emphasis on livestock and meat production. Since soybeans yield a larger percentage of cake per unit than most other oilseeds, they are the preferred import.

Imports of oilcake into France in 1961 exceeded 460,000 tons, almost $1\frac{1}{2}$ times as large as in 1960. This increase was largely soybean meal imports from the United States. During the same period, exports of oilcake increased by 7 percent, largely reflecting increased shipments of peanut cake.

GHANA'S OILSEED EXPORTS DECLINE

Ghana, whose trade in fats and oils is relatively small, exported less copra and palm kernels in 1961 than a year earlier. Although statistics on total production of peanuts and palm oil are not available, it is apparent that no exports were made.

OILSEEDS, FATS, AND OILS: Ghana, exports calendar 1958-1960 and January-October 1961

Item	1958	1959	1960	January-October 1961
	Long tons			
Coconuts.....	1,016	---	1,740	1,780
Copra.....	3,083	3,713	3,156	1,525
Palm kernels.....	7,948	2,855	3,050	1,418
Oilseeds, nuts, kernels n.e.s.....	1,076	4,009	4,873	---
Coconut copra oil.....	---	---	---	250
Shea nuts.....	---	---	---	1,147

Source: Monthly External Trade Statistics of Ghana.

Ghana's imports of fats and oils, largely of the highly processed types, have been increasing since fats and oils processing facilities are presently very limited. Over the last several years margarine has become the major fats and oils commodity imported.

FATS AND OILS: Ghana, imports calendar 1958-1960 and January-October 1961

Item	1958	1959	1960	January-October 1961
Butter.....	---	---	269	259
Margarine.....	878	1,280	1,538	2,495
Lard.....	4	4	2	16
Shortenings.....	203	255	278	263
Oilseeds, nuts and kernels.....	260	379	240	42
Animal fats and oils.....	---	3	5	23
Vegetable oils.....	1,169	865	2,866	2,196
Waxes.....	---	1	4	6
Other fats processed.....	23	8	31	22

Source: Monthly External Trade Statistics of Ghana.

Plans for increased production of palm products, copra, shea nuts, and peanuts for export are now being implemented. Improved varieties of oil palm seeds have been obtained from Nigeria and the West African Institute for Oil Palm Research. During the last 10 years more than 2 million such seeds have been obtained with the following larger quantities being requested for the future: 1962--500,000; 1963--600,000; 1964--750,000. A plantation is currently being developed at Prestsia which by 1962 will have 100,000 acres in oil palms.

Efforts to stimulate increased production of coconut, shea nuts, and peanuts have also involved the procurement of improved seeds and seedlings. The government is now planting and cultivating its own plantations through the Agricultural Development Corporation as well as encouraging the use of better husbandry methods by individual farmers.

JAPAN MAY BUY MORE SOYBEANS FROM MAINLAND CHINA

According to trade sources, contracts for the shipment of 100,000 metric tons (3.67 million bushels) of soybeans from Mainland China to Japan are expected to be negotiated in April. It is anticipated that April contracts may result in monthly shipments of 20,000 to 30,000 tons (0.7 to 1.1 million bushels) beginning in June.

The quantities here cited are in addition to the 45,000 tons sold to Japan for November-January shipment (Foreign Crops and Markets, December 18, 1961).

Importing firms in Japan report that the oil content of recent Chinese soybean shipments has been unexpectedly low, in some cases only 16 percent. Ministry of Agriculture reports indicate the foreign material content of these shipments have averaged only 0.8 percent thus far. However, import and mill sources report excessive foreign material.

GERMAN IMPORT TENDER FOR CANNED CHERRIES

On March 23, an import tender for canned cherries in retail-size containers from the United States and Canada was published by the West German Government.

The issuing of licenses is limited to importers who had imported cherries from the United States and/or Canada under the last import tender.

Application deadline for import licenses in June 29, 1962. Deadline for customs clearance is June 30, 1962.

ITALIAN POLICIES ENHANCE OLIVE OIL PRODUCTION AND MARKETING

The Italian Government has taken steps to improve olive production, to provide increased income to producers, and to raise the quality of Italy's edible oils. The measures were taken to improve Italy's competitive position within the European Common Market as well as to benefit domestic producers and consumers.

In Sicily, and the Calabria and Puglia regions, more and more citrus trees are being interplanted in olive groves. This innovation presumably will provide a greater income to the producer on one hand, and will enable him to carry on better fertilization, spraying and irrigating practices on the other. Irrigating the groves has not been a common practice in the past because of high costs of equipment installation and water. The anticipated new source of income from citrus will help cover equipment, power and water costs, and will absorb part of the fixed labor costs. Also, mechanical pickers are being studied in order to replace the increasingly expensive hand picking practice.

The introduction and expansion of a new olive tree variety, "a palmetta," is underway. This higher yielding variety has a short productive life span, 40 to 50 years, and requires irrigation. The trees are planted in widely spaced rows to permit the use of power equipment.

To improve the market quality of oil, a bill was approved on January 25, 1962 which prohibits the refining of seed oils through the esterification processing method. This method was banned for olive oil on November 30, 1960. This provision is intended to eliminate the possibility of converting inedible oils to edible uses.

In another move, it was announced on January 12, 1962, that during the first semester of 1962 the compulsory purchases of seed oil from the government would not be required in order to gain permission to import sesame seed. This action facilitates the importation of sesame seed--the oil of which is used for blending with other seed oils and certain solid vegetable and animal fats.

INDIA ANNOUNCES PRODUCER SUPPORT PRICE FOR WHEAT

India has fixed 13 rupees per maund (\$2.00 per bushel) as the producer floor price for average quality white wheat of the 1962 crop. The harvesting period for wheat in India is March to May, with the bulk of the crop harvested in April. Wheat will be purchased from the farmers at this price wherever and whenever necessary to keep the producer price from falling below this level. Adjustments will be made in the price in accordance with variations in variety and quality from the standard. The farmers are also at liberty to sell wheat to private buyers at any prices they are willing to accept.

Such purchasing of wheat will be done by the state governments on behalf of the federal government. Government purchases of wheat from the farmers had also been a federal program from the beginning of state trading in domestic wheat in 1955 through the 1958 harvest, but during 1959 through 1961 such purchasing was done by the state governments on their account.

In 1955, the producer floor price for wheat was 10 rupees per maund, and the federal government purchased a small quantity from the farmers that year at that price, with a favorable effect on the domestic producer market price. In 1956, the producer support price also was 10 rupees per maund but the government purchased no wheat from the farmers that year because regular domestic market prices were consistently above that level.

During 1957, 1958, and 1961 the relatively high domestic regular producer market wheat prices continued and consequently the government fixed no guaranteed producer floor prices at all for this grain. There were no government purchases of domestic wheat from farmers during these years except 40,000 long tons by the state of Punjab in 1961 but the price paid for this wheat was not reported.

During 1960, the states of Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh, and in 1959 these states and the state of Rajasthan bought domestic wheat from farmers at fixed floor prices of 13 to 15 rupees per maund according to quality. These are the principal wheat producing states. During the years when no guaranteed producer floor prices were fixed for domestic wheat, the farmers nevertheless had the government's assurance that it would not permit producer prices for this grain to fall to uneconomic levels.

The fixation by the government of a guaranteed producer floor price for wheat for 1962 is in accordance with food grain price policy included in the third Five Year Plan (for 1961-62/1965-66). This policy is to guarantee the farmers reasonable prices not subject to violent fluctuations, as an incentive to them to increase wheat production. Increases in domestic wheat production will also enable the government to adopt a better plan for rotating its stocks of wheat.

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